

CLASS I PERMIT

Criteria For Class I Permits

16.4(1) A Class I permit for a standard dock may authorize a total of one dock and up to two hoists serving one residence. It may authorize a common dock serving two or more residences located on adjoining shoreline properties. A common dock may include up to three hoists per shoreline property and be eligible for a Class I dock permit. The dock must extend from shoreline property on which one or more of the residences are located and must meet all of the following criteria:

a. Dock length limits. A dock on a natural lake may extend the greater of 100 feet from the water's edge or far enough so that the outer 50 feet of the dock is in 3 feet of water up to a maximum of 300 feet from the water's edge. These lengths shall be measured from the water's edge when the dock is installed. A dock on an artificial lake or river may extend the lesser of 50 feet from the water's edge or one-fourth of the width of the waterway measured from the water's edge when the dock is installed. However, the department may give notice to a property owner that a shorter dock length is necessary to avoid interference with navigation or an adjoining property owner's access. The width of an "L" or "T" segment at the outer end of a dock shall be included in measuring the length of the dock.

b. Width and configuration of docks on natural lakes. A dock on a natural lake shall have no more than one "L" or "T" segment. The total length of the "L" or "T" segment facing opposite from shore shall not be greater than 20 feet including the width of the dock. The total area of the "L" or "T" segment shall not exceed 200 square feet. That part of the main dock forming the center of a "T" segment or an extension of an "L" segment shall be included in measuring the area of the "T" or "L" segment. No other part of the dock may be more than 6 feet wide. Catwalks shall be at least 2 feet wide and considered as part of the dock. Catwalks shall be limited in length as in an "L" or "T" segment of the dock construction and shall not extend beyond the width of the hoist, except that a catwalk may be extended around the hoist for access to the hoist.

c. Compliance with standard requirements. The dock and associated hoists must comply with the standard requirements in 16.3(461A,462A) for all docks.

d. Other structures not authorized. A Class I permit does not authorize placement of any other anchored or floating structure, such as a swim raft.

16.4(2) Class I permits for private docks in other specified areas. This subrule authorizes issuance of Class I permits for private docks in certain areas where circumstances, including narrowness of the water areas specified below, require different dock and hoist configurations. In the following areas, docks that fail to comply with the offset or 10-foot gap requirement in 16.3(3) but that meet other standard dock requirements in 16.3(461A,462A) are eligible for a Class I permit, unless they obstruct navigation or an adjoining property owner's access: canals off West Okoboji Lake; Okoboji Harbor; inside harbor of Harbourage at Clear Lake; Venetian Village Canal at Clear Lake; Cottage Reserve on Lake Macbride; Lake Panorama; canals at Lake Manawa; and Lake Delhi.

16.4(3) Procedures for issuance of Class I dock permits. The owner of a standard dock eligible for a Class I permit under the

criteria in 16.4(1) or a dock in an area specified in 16.4(2) shall have until July 1, 2008, to apply for a Class I dock permit on an application form supplied by the department. The applicant shall certify that the dock meets the criteria for a Class I permit. The department shall approve the application based on the applicant's certification and shall assign a permit number which may be a series of numbers or letters, or a combination of numbers and letters. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining stickers with the permit numbers and letters, for attaching them to the end of the dock facing opposite from the shoreline, and for displaying the 911 address as provided in 16.3(5). Class I dock permits authorized by this rule may be issued for terms up to five years and shall be issued without administrative fee. A Class I dock permit shall be valid only while dock and hoists comply with the criteria for a Class I permit.

16.5 Class I permits for docks permitted by Corps of Engineers.

This rule authorizes issuance of Class I permits for docks authorized by permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on waters under joint jurisdiction of the department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. By agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the department, a dock permit issued by the Corps of Engineers pursuant to a joint boat dock application review process shall serve in place of a Class I permit issued by the department.

Definitions

Artificial lake means all river impoundments and all other impoundments of water to which the public has a right of access from land or from a navigable stream inlet. Examples are Lake Panorama, Lake Delhi, Lake Nashua, and Lake Macbride.

Boat means "watercraft" as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(41).

Boat hoist or lift means a structure placed in the water or below the ordinary high-water mark for boat storage, including platforms for storage of personal watercraft. For the purposes of this chapter, a boat hoist that is designed to store multiple small vessels such as personal watercraft or one-person sailboats shall be treated as a single hoist.

Catwalk means a platform no more than four feet wide installed to provide access from a dock to a moored boat or boat hoist.

Commercial dock means a dock used as part of a business, including a dock extending from residential property if one or more mooring spaces at the dock are rented for a fee.

Commission means the natural resource commission.

Common dock means a dock serving two or more adjoining shoreline properties.

Department means the department of natural resources.

Director means the director of the department of natural resources or the director's designee.

Dock means a platform-type structure extending from shoreline property over a public water body, including but not limited to platforms that provide access to boats moored on the water body.

Impoundment means a body of water formed by constructing a dam across a waterway.

Public dock means a dock constructed and maintained to provide public access from public land to a water body.

Public land means land that is owned by the state, a city, or a county or land that has been dedicated for public access to a public water body.

Public water body is a water body to which the public has a right of access.

Shoreline property means a parcel of property adjoining (littoral to) a lake or adjoining (riparian to) a river or other navigable stream.

Slip means a mooring space, usually adjacent to a dock, sometimes accessed by a catwalk.

Water body means a river or other stream, a natural lake, an artificial lake or other impoundment, or an excavated pit.

Standard requirements for all docks

16.3(1) Adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystem. All docks, hoists, slips and related structures shall be located, sized, configured, constructed and installed to limit their adverse impacts on the aquatic ecosystem. In areas of sensitive aquatic habitat, docks and hoists shall be located, configured, constructed and installed to minimize harm to aquatic habitat. Other restrictions may be placed on docks that are in a state protected waters area as necessary to protect the natural features of the designated area.

16.3(2) Adverse impacts on public access for recreational use. A dock shall not be configured to enclose an area of a public water body and create a private water area or otherwise adversely affect public recreational use of the water body. Where walking or wading parallel to the shore below the ordinary high-water mark would be physically practical except for the obstruction created by a dock, the dock owner shall not prevent a person from stepping on or over the dock to bypass the obstruction.

16.3(3) Location and offsets. To the extent practical, a dock and boat hoists shall be placed near the center of the shoreline property frontage and installed perpendicular to the shoreline to maximize offsets from neighboring properties. Each dock, hoist, moored vessel and other permitted structure shall be offset a minimum of 5 feet from an adjoining property line and 5 feet from the projection of a line perpendicular from the shoreline at the common boundary with adjoining shoreline property. A minimum gap of 10 feet shall be maintained between adjoining docks (including "L" or "T" or catwalk segments), hoists or moored boats. Where projection of a line perpendicular from the shoreline is impractical, it is the intent of this rule that a 10-foot gap be maintained in a manner that is equitable to each adjoining shoreline property owner.

16.3(4) Length. A dock shall not extend farther from the water's edge than the distance necessary for reasonable access to the water body in relation to characteristics of the water body in the vicinity of the dock site and the impacts on the water body and other users. Access to maintain one or more boats in water with a minimum depth of 3 feet shall be considered sufficient access.

16.3(5) Display of 911 address. Each dock owner shall display the 911 address, including the street and city, assigned to the property served by the dock. The owner of a dock authorized by an individual permit shall also display the dock permit number. The information shall be displayed in block letters and numbers at least 1 inch high in a color contrasting with the background, on the water end of the dock, facing away from shore, and shall be plainly visible.

16.3(6) Winter removal. Each dock must be removed from public waters before December 15 of each year and shall not be reinstalled until the following spring unless the removal requirement is waived by a condition of a dock permit or by 16.18(461A,462A).

16.3(7) No enclosure of private docks. Private docks and docks in dock management areas shall not be enclosed by roofs or sides. Hoists may be enclosed by roofs and sides constructed of soft-sided natural fiber or synthetic fiber materials for the purpose of protecting watercraft.

16.3(8) Materials and flotation specifications. Every new floating structure authorized by this chapter shall use flotation methods and devices of a type constructed of low-density, closed-cell rigid plastic foam; high-impact polyethylene fiberglass material; wood products pressure-treated with a product approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic use; or other inert materials to provide flotation. Synthetic (such as plastic or fiberglass) or metal containers not originally manufactured as flotation devices may be used as dock flotation devices if they have been cleaned of any product residue, sealed and watertight, and filled with a closed-cell rigid plastic foam.

16.3(9) Flow of water. All docks shall be constructed and placed in a manner that allows the free flow of water beneath them.

16.3(10) Excavation, fill and aquatic vegetation removal prohibited. No bed material may be excavated or fill placed, and no aquatic vegetation may be removed below the ordinary high-water mark of a water body in association with construction of a dock unless excavation, placement of fill, or aquatic vegetation removal is specifically authorized by a construction permit issued under 571—Chapter 13.

16.3(11) Storage, use, and dispensing of fuel. The storage, use, and dispensing of any fuel on a dock on or over a public water body or adjacent public land shall be in compliance with Iowa Code Chapter 101 and administrative rules that implement Chapter 101.

16.3(12) Electrical service. Any electrical service on or leading to any dock used for storage or dispensing of fuel must comply with the National Electrical Code, latest revision. All electrical service leading to docks shall include ground fault circuit interrupter protection.

16.3(13) Anchoring of river docks. All river docks must be securely anchored to prevent them from becoming floating hazards during times of high river flows. The riparian owner is responsible for dock retrieval and removal when necessary to prevent or remove a navigation hazard.

16.3(14) Access for inspection. A dock, boat hoist, raft, platform, mooring buoy or any other structure on a public water body may be physically inspected at any time by a representative of the department as needed to determine whether it was placed and is maintained in a manner consistent with the requirements in these rules or with a permit issued under these rules.

Duration and transferability of permits; refund of application fees; suspension, modification, or revocation of permits; complaint investigation; property line location

16.17(1) Duration and transferability of dock permits; administrative fee refunds. Each dock permit shall be issued for a term of five years unless a shorter term is needed due to specified circumstances. The administrative fee paid with an application is nonrefundable unless the application is withdrawn before the department incurs administrative expense in investigating the

application. A dock permit is automatically transferable to a new owner of the shoreline property upon request of the new owner.

16.17(2) Suspension, modification, or revocation of permits. A dock permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, by written notice served in compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.18, if the director determines that the dock is a hazard to other users of the water body, that a violation of any terms or conditions of the permit has occurred, or that continuation of the permit is contrary to the public interest. Such modification, suspension, or revocation shall become effective upon a date specified in the notice. The notice shall state the extent of the modification, suspension, or revocation, the reasons for the action, and any corrective or preventative measures to be taken by the permittee to bring the dock, structure, or activity into compliance. Within 30 days following receipt of the notice of a revocation or modification, or during the course of a suspension, the permittee may request a hearing in order to present information demonstrating that the alleged violation did not occur or that required corrective and preventative measures have been taken, or to present any other information relevant to a decision as to whether the permit should be reinstated, modified, or revoked. The hearing shall be conducted as prescribed by 571—Chapter 7. After completion of the hearing, a final decision will be made concerning the status of the permit. In the event that no hearing is requested, notices of modification and revocation shall remain in effect, and suspended permits shall be reinstated, modified, or revoked. These procedures are not intended to limit the authority of a department law enforcement officer to issue a citation for a violation of a provision of Iowa Code Chapter 461A or 462A, or a provision in this chapter.

16.17(3) Investigation of complaints. Any person adversely affected by a permitted dock or associated boat hoist may request, in writing, an investigation and a hearing to reconsider the permit. Requests for hearings shall specify adverse effects on the complainant and shall be made in accordance with procedures described in 571—Chapter 7.

16.17(4) Determining property boundaries. An applicant for a permit, a permittee, and an owner of shoreline property adjoining property of an applicant or permittee are responsible for determining the accurate location of common boundaries of their respective properties.

16.18 Exemptions from winter removal requirement. This rule provides for exemptions from the general requirement in Iowa Code section 462A.27 that nonpermanent structures be removed on or before December 15 of each year. Docks and other structures subject to destruction or damage by ice movement must be removed. Where a dock may be left in ice without damage to the dock, it must have reflective material visible from all directions to operators of snowmobiles, other motorized machines, or wind-propelled vessels lawfully operated on the frozen surface of the water body. Generally, ice damage is greatest on Iowa's rivers and natural lakes. Docks must be removed by December 15 of each year unless they have the required reflective materials and are specifically exempted by a condition of a dock permit or are located in one of the areas listed as follows: artificial lakes; Upper Gar Lake; canals off West Okoboji Lake; Okoboji Harbor; Lazy Lagoon portion of Triboji dock management area; Smith's Bay on West Okoboji Lake; area between the trestle and U.S. Highway 71 bridges on Okoboji lakes; Templar Park on Big Spirit Lake; Venetian Village Canal and Harbourage Inlet on Clear Lake; Casino Bay of Storm Lake; Black Hawk Marina at Black Hawk Lake; and canals off Lake

Manawa and Carter Lake. A permit shall not authorize an exception from the winter removal requirement unless the applicant provides adequate documentation that the dock will not be damaged by normal ice movement.

16.19 General conditions of all dock permits. All dock permits, unless specifically excepted by another provision of this chapter, shall include the following conditions of approval:

16.19(1) The permit creates no interests, personal or real, in the real estate below the ordinary high water line nor does it relieve the requirement to obtain federal or local authorization when required by law for such activity. The permit does not authorize the permittee to prevent the public from using areas of the water body adjacent to the permitted structure. However, a lawfully permitted private dock or commercial dock is property of the permittee. Use of the dock is reserved to the permittee and the permittee's invitees, subject to the public right of passage stated in 16.3(2).

16.19(2) A permit is valid only while the permittee has the necessary permissions to use the adjoining shoreline property from which the dock projects.

16.19(3) The permittee shall not charge a fee for use of the dock or associated structure unless: the permit is for a commercial dock; the fee is expressly authorized by the permit; or the permittee is a homeowners association and the fee is for recovery of expenses incurred in providing access to association members.

16.20 Permit criteria for rafts, platforms, or other structures. A raft, platform, or other structure maintained on a public water body requires authorization in a permit. The raft, platform, or other structure may not be placed more than 250 feet from the shoreline, shall be equipped with reflectors that are visible from approaching boats, and shall be subject to the winter removal requirement unless specifically exempted by the permit. The addition of a swim raft, mooring buoy or other structure requires the applicant to apply for a Class III permit.